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CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING THE SOMERVILLE HOUSE COMMUNITY



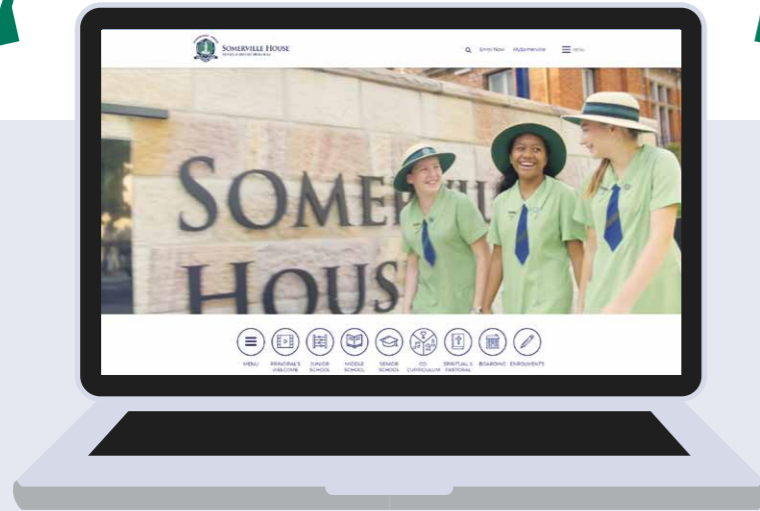
Somerville House Old Girl, Abigail Lees, is living out her dream, working for the BBC Natural History Unit in England.





— “ —
Somerville House has given us those opportunities to blossom and prosper; to flourish in adversity; to thrive in uncertainty; and to be ready for whatever the future holds.

” —
RHIANNON HAMES
VALEDICTORIAN 2017



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IN PRINCIPAL

Dr Ness Goodwin, Principal

Somerville House is a community that is rich in all aspects of its life. Students have opportunities for learning and growth in their academic life and in the Co-Curricular Program. Their participation and achievements are reflected in this edition of Connections.

Our aim is to help each student become the best person she can be, developing her skills and talents, and growing in those areas which may take more effort. Not everything comes easily, and we all have talents in different areas.

Even when we are endowed with natural talents, it takes consistent work, effort, time and patience to develop them. In this edition of Connections, we can see how the commitment of our students has borne fruit in their areas of endeavour.

These efforts and achievements serve to inspire us to achieve our own goals. As we are inspired, so can we aspire to great things. It is important to remember that sometimes great things can be quite small – the gentleness of a comforting hand, the balm of

encouraging words, while small in themselves, actually can achieve great transformations in people's lives.

The achievements of the students are also a tribute to the teaching staff, parents, and the many other people who walk beside our students in their journey. Surrounding every successful student, there is a loyal band of people forming a network of care and encouragement, and I celebrate the support given by these people.

I am inspired by the stories of our students. I admire what they are doing, and feel uplifted by their achievements. They are a salutary reminder of all that is good in the Somerville House community and how blessed we are to share in our community life.



PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS SPEECH NIGHT 2017

Dr Ness Goodwin, Principal

Mr Greg Adsett, Mr Jim Demack, distinguished guest, ladies and gentlemen, students and friends of the School, good evening to you all.

Tonight is a night of celebration, a night when we honour our students for all of their achievements this year. It is a night of culmination when so much of what our students and teachers have worked towards this year comes to fruition. We see the achievements of our students in so many ways. Obviously there are our prize-winners for whom this is a particularly important night.

We also see the achievements of our students in their contribution to the success of the evening – our musicians and our singers. We see their success in their appointment to leadership positions. We also hear about the achievements and endeavours of our students in all aspects of school life.

We have had a very successful year and I thank Isabelle, Cailin and Meg for highlighting aspects of 2017 and for presenting such an interesting review

of the year. They have given us a spirited year and I thank them for their excellent leadership and for exemplifying so much of what Somerville House stands for.

Tonight I would like to make some general comments about education. That is, after all, the reason we are here tonight. When I scroll through my apps (yes, girls, I do use apps), it is interesting to consider the subject matter. My apps are predictable: ABC apps, and for political balance, The Australian, the Australian Book Review – you get my drift. These are all apps designed to keep people informed about Australia and the world. So I read about politics, the economy, women's issues, social issues and so forth. I listen to podcasts, again with the same sort of coverage. But for all the information, analysis and opinion that are covered by the media, there is surprisingly little commentary about education.

It is not that education is not covered by the media. We all know the media scramble when significant test results

are published and we all know the feverish commentary that occurs at these times. But this is scarcely what I would call considered analysis and opinion about education. Perhaps because I am a professional educator I find this absence of curiosity surprising. I know that education is not newsworthy. Goodness – education takes time and there are few dramatic moments in a student's learning worthy of cameras and interviews in the 24-hour news cycle. Of course we all know that aha! moment when a student grasps a concept for the first time, but the cameras are never there for that moment. Can you imagine a scene where the media flock to interview a student to capture the excitement when she understands Pythagoras's theorem for the first time? Maybe not.

But I want to pause tonight and reflect on what matters in education. We are, after all, gathered together to celebrate our students' achievements, so I am safe to assume that we all have a keen interest in education. ▶

One of the most obvious features of education is that it must serve the needs of society. If our students had been born into a nomadic society a few centuries ago, reading and writing would have been of no value. Instead, reading the seasons and the stars, understanding weather patterns and the behaviour of animals would have been paramount. If our students had been born in the nineteenth century, depending on their status in life, they would have had to know how to embroider a little, sing a little, paint a little, generally be decorative and not do anything too much. Fortunately there were notable exceptions such as Mary Somerville after whom this great school is named. Mary Somerville was a noted mathematician and astronomer of the nineteenth century whose bold rejection of the limiting roles of women of the time is an inspiration to us still.

So the content – the subject matter of what is taught in schools – is of great importance. Equally important, and perhaps even more important – are the values that underpin what is taught and how it is taught. We can and do teach these values explicitly. Our students are explicitly taught about the Christian faith, they are taught about the Bible which to my mind is still the best self-help book ever written. They are explicitly taught about care and compassion and we have many programs where students are able to put into practice some of these intangible values such as working to support the Leukemia Foundation, knitting boots and squares for blankets, making sports visits to the Youth Detention Centre. These are students who go out of their way to help others.

So, education changes with the times. Let me talk directly to our students here: we teach you about the stars and the seasons, but not in the ways that the nomads to whom I referred earlier knew them. We teach you to sing and play music and play sport and extend yourself in every endeavour. We teach you to do these things, not just a little, but with passionate embrace. We teach you not to be decorative but to participate, contribute, learn and lead. We teach you to follow the example of Mary Somerville.

So we are confident about what we teach in the curriculum and the Co-Curricular Program. But every bit as important as this teaching is the tenor of relationships within the School. We know that we are in a great school when the relationships are caring, supportive and respectful. We know that we are in a great school when the staff know the students and are alert to their needs. We know we are in a great school when we see how the students treat each other and how they treat the staff. We know that we are in a great school when there is seriousness of purpose about the process of learning as well as laughter and shouts of joy in the sheer pleasure of being with friends and having fun.

Every day when I walk around the School, I see evidence of the fine education our students are receiving. I see how teachers and students interact, and I see students studying and hear them laughing. I see how our staff behind the scenes dedicate themselves to the task of supporting the School. This is a school where our expectations are high, as they should be. It is also school where encouragement is given in abundance.

Let us remember the words from Hebrews 10:24-25:

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.

And so I say to you all, be encouraged in your work, whether as a student, a staff member, a parent or a volunteer. This is our night, this is your night.

Tonight, we celebrate the achievements of our students in all aspects of school life. In doing so, it is also important to recognise that many people contribute to their success, and that many people work for their benefit and wellbeing. First I extend my thanks to Mr Jim Demack, Chairman of the School Council, for his commitment to the School and his leadership of the Somerville House School Council. I also thank the members of the School Council and Advisory Council who donate their time, energy and expertise to this great school.

I also thank Mr Greg Adsett and the members of the PMSA for their work on the PMSA Council. I also thank the Presbyterian and the Uniting Church for their continuing support of Somerville House.

I acknowledge the work of Mrs Flo Kearney during her tenure as Principal. I shall have more to say about her contribution later this evening, but I particularly want to recognise her commitment and tireless work for the School.

I extend my thanks to all members of the Somerville House Executive who fulfil their duties loyally, with great expertise, and always with good spirit and good humour. As members of Executive, we constantly juggle many priorities, and I am very fortunate to have at my side Executive members who bring great skills to our decision-making process and who accept with good grace the decisions that have been made. I thank all members of the teaching staff who bring academic excellence, compassionate pastoral care and high moral standards to their task. Without the efforts of our teachers, our students would not achieve as well and as fully as they do. We are blessed to have a teaching staff who bring passion and commitment to their daily work with our students. I also thank all of our support staff. No matter in which section of the School our support staff work, we all share the one goal – to educate our students. I thank our support staff for their efforts to help us achieve that goal.

On a personal note, I thank my Executive Assistant, Mrs Ali Webster for all her work in supporting me and the School. Her efficiency and her understanding of the School are invaluable. I also thank the other staff members in my office, Mrs Denise Porteous and Mrs Aprilla Walmsley, for their dedicated service.

Our School thrives not only because of the calibre of our staff, but also because of the work of our many volunteers who give their time and energy for the love of the School. I thank all our volunteers, our Parents' and Friends' Association and our Support Groups, our Foundation, our Old Girls' Association and many

other friends of the School who give us so much. Our volunteers give countless hours to the operation of the School and they give generously of their expertise and skills. We deeply appreciate this commitment and are all the better for it.

Our parents, you are our partners, with whom we work closely, united by the same goal and sharing a common bond. I thank you all for supporting us in all we do, for your work as encouragers, homework supervisors, uniform enforcers and chauffeurs. We value our partnership with you in educating your daughter.

Students – no matter where you live, across the road or on the other side of the world, you bring with you each day your own energy, ideas, strengths, enthusiasm and vitality. Each day we work with you, we are enriched by what you bring. I thank our School Captains, Middle School Captains and Junior School Captains, along with the Portfolio Captains for your leadership this year. Students of Somerville House, from Pre-Prep to Year 12, you give us richly rewarding professional lives and for that we are very grateful. Each day you give to us as we give to you. It is a deep honour to be part of all this. May God bless you all.





MRS FLORENCE KEARNEY

Mrs Kearney was a focused, dedicated and highly professional leader who served as Principal at Somerville House from 2011 to 2017. Not only did she demonstrate outstanding leadership during her seven years at Somerville House, she was an integral part of maintaining the School's position as one of the leading schools in Queensland.

A leader with a passionate commitment to girls' education, her dedication to the students and the Somerville House community was demonstrated in the many student and School milestones that were achieved under her leadership.

Her commitment to girls' education was evidenced through her work with the students, staff, parents and School community. She was passionate about female empowerment and encouraging young women to be creative, take risks, stretch themselves beyond their limits and strive to be the best they could be.

Her focus was on enriching the students' learning journey, and providing a positive learning environment that enabled each student to thrive. This saw the development of the Somerville House Curriculum Framework, which now provides a blueprint for new teaching practices and learning across every aspect of the School.

Mrs Kearney had a particular interest in girls' sport, which led to the acquisition of a new sporting field in Dunn Road, Rocklea. This was a lengthy five year process. The land will be used to develop a sports ground for our students. Other developments that were completed while under her leadership were:

- Bauer Building; a building that houses a new state-of-the-art Boarding House
- Early Learning Centre; which now enables both boys and girls to enjoy their first day of Pre-Prep in a new learning facility
- Foundation Building

- The School's first café, *Under The Clock*
- Refurbishment of several sections of the School

She consistently embraced educational change as the educational system evolved in the digital age. This saw the launch of the new Somerville House website, *My Somerville* intranet site and an official Somerville House App, which offers online access to School information and helps connect the School to the Somerville House community.

Her care for the students' wellbeing was shown through a variety of School projects including the continuation of quality and healthy food options, resulting in the School tuckshop achieving a Food Smart Accreditation from Nutrition Australia. In addition she implemented a fully integrated Fire Detection and Warning system, upgrading the School's safety and security.

Throughout the years, the School has achieved an impressive portfolio of academic achievements, with Somerville House performing well every year. Her passion for girls' education was shown not only in academic results, but also through the various community events that the School contributed to while under her leadership.

Mrs Kearney's intrepid spirit saw her venture north with six other Principals to the Indigenous community of Lockhart River. The purpose of the trip was to consider ways to connect with and support the community in its growth and development.

Other community engagements were with hospitals, homeless organisations and provision of academic scholarships. A particularly noteworthy cause involved the School donating old classroom furniture to two colleges in Tonga after they were affected by a severe cyclone.

Mrs Kearney was respected amongst the Somerville House community. She was a leader of honour, integrity and was a role model to all students and staff members. Her sense of fun was always well received, whether it was in Assembly, an overseas tour or at student and staff functions.

On behalf of the students, staff, parents and teachers, we thank Mrs Kearney for her fine leadership during her time at Somerville House and wish her well in the future. She has left a legacy in the School that will never be forgotten.

EXPLORING THE NATURAL WORLD WITH *ABIGAIL LEES*



Abigail Lees (Class of 2004), has wanted to make wildlife films for as long as she can remember. With the grounds and classrooms of Somerville House as her backdrop, Abigail (Abi) and her classmates would create natural history mockumentaries, filming students crossing the oval to the tuckshop, comparing them to animals gathering at a watering hole.

“I was hiding behind a palm frond at the back of D Block narrating this to the camera *à la Attenborough*, as if we were on the African savannah.” Abi said.

Now, thirteen years since her graduation from Somerville House, Abi is living out her dream, working as a Director for the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol, England.

Famous for producing groundbreaking wildlife documentaries with renowned broadcaster, Sir David Attenborough, the BBC Natural History Unit works with scientists and explorers to go to the most remote regions of the world.

Abi explains, “My main aim is to get viewers excited about wildlife, and to show them the changes in the environment are occurring because of human activity and climate change.”

Between filming in Australia and Antarctica for BBC’s latest series, ‘Seven Worlds’, we speak to Abi about what inspired her to pursue a career in this industry and what she hopes to achieve by making documentaries about the natural world.

What was it about creating wildlife documentaries that appealed to you from such an early age?

Although it seems like family pets are far less exciting than wild animals, my fascination with wildlife certainly began with ‘man’s best friend’. I learnt from a very early age that all animals have distinct personalities, and that I really enjoyed being around them and discovering their idiosyncrasies.

After my early experience with domesticated animals, I started to develop a natural curiosity for all wildlife, particularly how they reacted to me being in their domain. I enjoyed being accepted into their world, and quickly learnt that animals behaved differently towards you whether you treat them well, or cruelly, and if you are calm, or if you are scared.

My natural affinity to all things wildlife spurred me to listen in biology. My teachers at Somerville House, Mr Snitch and Mrs Huxley, were fabulous mentors who encouraged my love for it. They were enthusiastic and, most importantly, made us laugh while we learned. I finished school and enrolled in a double degree in Journalism and Science and majored in Botany and Zoology at the University of Queensland. I knew Attenborough studied Zoology at university, so I wanted to follow the same path.

How did you begin working for the BBC and what are some of the most memorable projects you have worked on?

After a few unpaid internships at production houses and working as a runner at an editing house, I accrued some good contacts, one of which told me a position had become available at the BBC Natural History Unit (NHU). I leapt at the opportunity, handed in my resume, and one month later I was working in NHU Development, the department where all the programs are born. This role helped me to hone my research skills and storytelling abilities, and allowed me to meet many more people in the business. ▶





From here I worked on a plethora of UK-based series, including *Secrets of Bones* (a 6-part series about animal bones and their function), *The Wonder of Animals* (a 12-part series about the most successful animals in the world) and *WILD*, a live kids show about wildlife and extreme sport, where every week we were at a different location across the UK.

This year I have worked on a series about the seven different continents, entitled 'Seven Worlds'. This series has taken me on my first 'remote location' in a directing role, which was to Australia to film echidnas! For two months in 2017, I was lucky enough to be in Antarctica filming elephant seals and king penguins. I will also start 2018 in Antarctica, visiting an island with a resident active volcano, where 100,000 chinstrap penguins make their home for the breeding season. Myself and my crew are being hosted by the Spanish Polar Committee at their scientific base, where around 75% of our knowledge about chinstrap breeding biology comes from.

What role do you think wildlife documentaries play in engaging people with the environment?

I believe humans can learn a lot about themselves by observing animals and certainly by watching wildlife documentaries. After all, we are animals ourselves. It is a fact that is so easily forgotten by most of us. Perhaps the most appealing part of my job is this very point: by studying animals and filming their behaviour I am learning about all of life on this planet, how we interact with one another, and how human beings' treatment of the planet affects all living things. I am effectively learning about humanity, and myself, and this is what inspires me to keep pursuing this career path.

I am particularly keen on sending out the message to as many people as I can that we live on a finite planet, that climate change is in part exacerbated by human activities, and that we must take responsibility and look after our one and only world.

I want to show people that we can change our lifestyles to work alongside nature by, for example, choosing renewable energy companies over fossil fuels, not buying so many throwaway, single-use items, and using biodegradable products that won't end up in landfill.

I hope nature films will inspire the next generation to tackle these environmental issues, be it through making their own science or wildlife documentaries, through scientific research, or simply by engaging with their environment in everyday life.

How do you think your education at Somerville House prepared you for a challenging career in science and journalism?

Mary Somerville, the School's namesake, was a trailblazing female scientist and mathematician and is a perfect role model for girls growing up in a society that still think women aren't 'cut out' for careers in science, maths, engineering and so on. Being at Somerville House, I was never subjected to such negative points of view. If anything, maths and science were heavily encouraged, and so I grew up in a bubble thinking I was just as able to do any profession as well as any man – indeed gender didn't ever come into it. I'm glad I grew up in this bubble. Of course, I do come across opinionated people who still think in an archaic way, but it is easy to bat their jibes away.

Somerville House teaches confidence, equality and pursuing your dreams above all. This is the most important aspect of a Somerville House education: being in a positive environment that makes you believe 'I can do that too'.



RHANA DEVENPORT

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The Principal's Award for Excellence is awarded at the discretion of the Principal, to an Old Girl who has made a significant contribution in her profession. This year's recipient is Ms Rhana Devenport. Rhana attended Somerville House from 1973 to 1977.

Firstly I respect and honour the original owners of this land and those who have gone before us, I acknowledge and thank Principal Dr Ness Goodwin and former Principal Mrs Flo Kearney. I particularly wish to acknowledge the dedicated teachers and most importantly, I wish to honour you, the students – you are the reason everyone is here tonight, it's about your future, your education, your friendships with each other and those wonderful lives that are about to unfurl before you. I am deeply humbled and mighty surprised by this honour.

I am so sorry not to be with you in person tonight. I tried super hard, but I live in New Zealand and am being interviewed at lunchtime today about my work as Director of Auckland Art Gallery and teleportation is sadly not an option yet. But I have a better option and that is my fabulous sister Dr Maxeen Devenport who is reading this. She is my closest friend, my inspiration, working at the Wesley Breast Clinic saving the lives of women everyday, and is far more deserving than myself of this award. And she too wore that crazy green Somerville House uniform.

I had no idea what I wanted to do when I left school, I liked art and people, my father was an architect but he thought I wouldn't enjoy structural mechanics so I studied art teaching. The chapel today was the art room when I was at Somerville House, we drew plaster casts of body parts, painted boats and goats and I was obsessed with the Renaissance and Picasso – and other famous dead male artists as was the fashion. I have three minutes so I don't want to waste it. Art does have a spiritual power, it connects us, it opens our hearts, provokes new ideas, it makes us more open, more empathetic, more able to see truth, and ourselves. For me it's been an unquestioning pathway of learning and discovery, there are always new artists, new ideas, new insights, new connections, and new conversations to be had through culture and art.

When I was an art teacher for 10 years at St Peters I learned about people and how 7 year olds and 17 year olds see the world – and it's beautiful. When I worked at Queensland Art Gallery with the Asia Pacific Triennial for 10 years I learned to listen intently to the world views of others – from China, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan and beyond – as they unfolded urgently through art and discussion. This is when I understood how brave so many artists are, how they are deeply committed to freedom and to the right to speak their truth and the truth of others through art.

Through the Sydney Festival and the Biennale of Sydney I learned that great communal projects for thousands of people take time, a clear vision, boundless energy, rigorous planning, fearlessness and a hearty willingness to spin 360 degrees when things go awry, and they always do!

When I was Director of the Govett Brewster Art Gallery in New Zealand I learned that a tiny town on a road to nowhere can be a creative hub for artists and thinkers from across the globe and that art thrives everywhere, if you believe in it. For the last four years I have been privileged to be Director of Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, the largest and most respected art museum in New Zealand. Toi means art and Tamaki means Auckland. Here I have learned about the Maori perspective on life in the largest Polynesian city and the second most diverse city on the planet.

1.8 billion digital images are taken every single day and you and I contribute to that number, the visual world is a powerful immersive space we inhabit. There are around 14 billion artworks in museum collections worldwide. There are millions of passionate people who research, collect, promote, curate, discuss, perform, sing, conserve, exhibit and celebrate these artworks. This is my world, but there a countless other worlds out there waiting for you.

Three simple things I have learned: Be gracious with people, rigorous with standards, and never lose sight of your goal.

Congratulations to you all tonight – look after each other and stay true to yourself.

Accepting the Award for Ms Devenport was her sister, Dr Maxeen Devenport (alumna 1969 to 1973).

Maxeen studied for her medical degree at the University of Queensland, graduating in 1979.

Following years as a House Officer in Public hospitals in Queensland she worked for several years in General Practice, a number of years in medical research in London and has now worked in Breast Medicine for many years, both in a private breast clinic and in the public Breastscreen system.



VALEDICTORY 2017

By Rhiannon Hames, Year 12

The landscape of Somerville House is one that has evolved throughout the School's life, beginning on Wickham Terrace in 1899, before moving to South Brisbane in 1920. The heritage-listed Cumboquepa was purchased as a part of the School's new site, and included the much-loved Sacred Grass, which has since served as one of the School's most prominent green spaces.

What gives the Sacred Grass its dazzling verdancy is the chlorophyll pigment, which allows it to absorb energy in the form of red and blue light in order to produce the sugars upon which it feeds. Much like the Sacred Grass, we, the Seniors of 2017, have had to develop the fitness of character, mind and spirit to adapt to the ever-changing environment that is today's world.

Somerville House has given us those opportunities to blossom and prosper; to flourish in adversity; to thrive in uncertainty; and to be ready for whatever the future holds.

Good evening Dr Goodwin, Mr Demack, Chairman of the School Council, Ms O'Gorman, Ms Harris, staff, parents, special guests, and the Seniors of 2017.

Tonight we wish to thank and farewell the Somerville House community for its sunlight, and its abundance of love and support, for these have allowed us to grow.

In the academic world, there are many different definitions of growth. Biology describes it as 'the irreversible increase in the dry mass of an organism'. Economics describes it as 'an increase in the number of goods and services produced per head of the population over a period of time.' In English, we measure Hamlet's growth in his reconciliation with divine providence. For Somerville House girls, growth means a growth mindset: understanding the difference between 'I can't do it' and 'I can't do it yet'. We have discovered not only the value of knowledge, but the necessity of life-long learning. We can accept that there is more than one right answer to a question, that sometimes we need to squeeze content to fit the word count, and that our solutions to life's quandaries will always have assumptions and limitations attached. We've been taught to argue and challenge 'certain certainties', and 'to disturb the universe'.

Such is the culture of our cohort that we have published opinion pieces in our student newspaper, 'From the Pond', and sharpened our political 'edginess' with our 'Women of the Future' Club. We have learnt that to question and to consider is to be unorthodox, and that orthodoxy is unconsciousness. Unlike most plants, grasses have evolved to grow at their base instead of their tips to protect themselves from damage; just like our own Sacred Grass, when faced with defeat, we are able to regenerate and revitalise, because we have been blessed with Somerville House roots, imbued with curiosity, compassion, and companionship.

The friends we have made through our shared Somerville House experience have defined us just as much as our learning journey. We have excitedly conversed in tutor groups and locker rooms, we have consumed countless bowls of noodles in the kitchenette, and we have discussed the most recent QCS memes while knitting our slippers for the Leukaemia Foundation. We have cried over integrals, laughed about Daisy Buchanan's melodrama,

and shared a 'high thrive' in the corridor between classes. We've danced together at the formal, and we've shared our thoughts, our struggles, and our dreams during D&Ms in the Honour Room. We have done more than simply share the same patch of ground; we have flourished together. The friendships we have nurtured here are something we will cherish forever, and remain a part of us wherever we go.

Honour Before Honours is the bedrock from which our friendships and our learning have stemmed. We are governed by a Christian spirit, one which seeks what is good and righteous not for ourselves alone, but for the benefit of others. We are compelled to create change in whatever way we can, because we are women who have dreams, ambitions, and courage in the face of challenges. Grass is an essential component of any ecosystem; it supports thousands of insects, birds and animals in its own growth. Like our own Sacred Grass, when we grow and thrive, we are able to give ourselves to others, and be a part of something much greater than we ever could have imagined.

So to those people who have given so much to us – our teachers, parents, friends, coaches, and mentors – it is your light that has warmed us. You have inspired us, encouraged us, and loved us. Matthew, Chapter 7, Verse 24 tells us: *'And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.'* You have been our foundation of rock.

Though the School's physical presence may alter, the things that make Somerville House the place it is will remain – a place that nurtures and nourishes girls and ibises alike. As we pursue our own green lights, Somerville House will stay with us; it is as much an experience as it is a place. In the words of T.S. Eliot, *'We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.'* Seniors of 2017, we have finished the first stage of our growth. Here ends our time as small green seedlings, but it is one full of potential and promise. Tomorrow we reach up towards the sky.

Farewell to retiring DR KIRK WILLIAMSON



In 2017 we farewelled Dr Kirk Williamson, Head of Middle School, and long-serving staff member of Somerville House. Dr Williamson has been instrumental in the success of Middle School, starting with a blank canvas and turning it into the exemplary Middle School it is now. His drive, determination, spirit and sense of humour will be missed. We thank Dr Williamson for his contribution to the School during the past 16 years and wish him well in his retirement.

When did you begin working at Somerville House and what is your fondest memory of the School?

I commenced as inaugural Head of Middle School at Somerville House in October 2001, having transferred from Brisbane Boys' College where I was Deputy Director of Studies. Middle School at Somerville House was introduced in two stages; from the beginning of 2002 for Years 7 and 8, and Year 9 in 2003.

My fondest memories of Somerville House relate to Middle School students. They are highly committed to the whole school programs; passionate about learning and academic achievement; the immense value they place on friendships and support for each other; and the respectful manner in which they interact with staff.

Another lasting memory of Somerville House is the highly committed and professional academic and corporate staff. Staff go beyond 'the call of duty' to support students in a very caring way.

What are some of your most memorable achievements during your time at Somerville House?

My most memorable achievements with the commencement of Middle School would not have been possible without the superb staff at Somerville House. Basically starting with a 'blank canvas', we strengthened some existing programs and created many new ones, all within an innovative Middle School framework.

This would not have been possible without the full support of the three Principals, Dr Murray Evans, Dr Ness Goodwin and Mrs Flo Kearney.

A few noteworthy achievements were:

- Creating a new Homeroom structure in which pastoral care was the responsibility of teachers who know their students very well and who teach them quite extensively, especially in Years 7 and 8.

- The on-going recruitment of highly skilled teachers who understand the emotional and developmental needs of young adolescent girls.

- A smooth transition of Junior/Primary students into the Middle School with age appropriate pastoral care and curriculum programs, excellent facilities, dedicated staff and supportive organisational structures.

- Maintenance of high scholastic standards as evidenced by the number of Academic Awards and the improved NAPLAN results, especially in Numeracy.

- Initiating a new arrangement throughout the School for the teaching of Languages other than English, and The Arts.

- The introduction of a high quality Digital Technologies course aligned with the Australian Curriculum for all students in Years 6 to 9.

- Setting up successful programs for the delivery of extensive Learning Enhancement for Middle School students. In later years this support also extended to explicit programs for Extension and Enrichment.

- Using the existing House system to set up specific Middle School sporting events as well as the introduction of the valued Arts Festival.

- The formation of the Middle School Support Group as an important means for improved communication and community building.

- Promotion of mindsets within the Middle School community, in which service/support for others and continuous improvements are considered paramount.

What will you miss most about Somerville House?

What I will miss most about Somerville House are the students.

Their exuberance and enthusiastic participation in every aspect of schooling was a joy to witness and be part of each day.

Most importantly, I will miss the interactions with professional and supportive staff. Being part of this collaboration for the delivery of educational programs helped me to develop further as an educator.

Finally, parents who have shown such strong support for their daughters' education and those who worked in partnership with the School with such grace and goodwill will be greatly missed.

Would you like to share a little about your plans following your retirement from Somerville House?

Maree and I have now moved permanently to the Sunshine Coast where we plan to continue our renovations, travel more, and generally relish the more relaxed beach and hinterland lifestyle.

I have always enjoyed teaching Mathematics and so I will also endeavour to attain short-term teaching positions over the next couple of years.

I will also get more involved in surf lifesaving in which I have maintained a long-term association as an active member since starting as a 'Nipper'.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

I will always think of Somerville House with great affection. The School has provided me with new friendships and many professional opportunities; for this I am very appreciative.

Somerville House is also the school I chose for my two daughters who have gained a great deal by being part of this wonderful community.

My combined service at both Brisbane Boys' College and Somerville House totals 30 years and I am very proud of my association with both Schools.

RETIRING SOMERVILLE HOUSE STAFF

As we close in on the year of 2017, not only do we have time to reflect on some of the amazing achievements our School has had, but it is also time to acknowledge and farewell some of our teachers who won't be returning in 2018.

Mr John Honeywill, Head of Art, Mr Stephen Williams, Director of Co-Curricular Music and Mr Oleg Shishkin, Director of Rowing will be closing their textbooks for the last time after being part of the Somerville House community for many years. We ask them what their most memorable memories were while at Somerville House.



MR OLEG SHISHKIN

Director of Rowing

When did you begin working at Somerville House and what is your fondest memory of the School?

I first commenced working at Somerville House as Director of Rowing in November 2007. From my first day here, I was very impressed with the level of support I received from so many people. I think this support, from the School staff, parents, coaches and students during my years at Somerville House and a feeling of being part of a very successful "TEAM SOMERVILLE" is and will remain, my fondest memory of the School.

What were some of your most memorable achievements during your time at the Somerville House?

I believe there were quite a few achievements during the last ten years that Somerville House can be proud of. Since 2009 Somerville House won six first and three second places at the Head of the River Aggregate Cup competition. Since 2010, Somerville House rowers have won medals at the National Championships every year. This year performances at the Nationals were the most impressive with five gold medals and one silver

medal. Our rowers won all four Under 17 events, which were contested at the National Championships. I am especially proud of the fact that during these ten years more than 500 Somerville House students joined the Rowing program and many of them did so for the five years from Year 8 through to their final year in Year 12.

When did you start coaching, and what made you decide to become coach?

I started in 1974 as a full time coach at the Specialised Rowing Sports Centre in Kiev (Ukraine). It was after ten years experience of rowing. I loved this sport and thought that I had enough experience to share my knowledge with the young rowers.

What will you miss most about coaching?

I am retiring from the position of Director of Rowing but I cannot imagine not being involved in coaching rowing in some capacity. I do not know right now, how or where I will be doing it. I think I will take a couple of months to "recharge my batteries" and when I feel again that it is time to start an engine in the coach's tinnie, I will be back. I am sure it will not take long.



MR JOHN HONEYWILL

Head of Art

When did you begin working at Somerville House and what is your fondest memory of the School?

I started working at Somerville House in 1987. While working at the School, I had many memories. One specific one was back in the 1990s when we used to have a Spring Fair. The Fair involved quite a lot of energy and involvement from Somerville House parents and staff members. This was both fun and hard work.

Another memory, which is one of my favourites, is sitting in the classroom with the Senior Art students, extraordinary girls working on their artworks. There would be music playing, and laughter reverberating around the room as we talked about their ideas and any problems they may have been having. These memories and many more have been the heart of my working life and for that I feel very blessed.

What were some of your most memorable achievements during your time at the Somerville House?

It has been so rewarding (in particular the recent years) working with amazing staff and students while at Somerville House. The amazing quality of the

students' artwork across the whole School still surprises and delights me.

There are many projects I have introduced or been involved in during my time here, some of them being:

- Introducing the INSIGHT Art Exhibition in 1996, our Biennial Whole School Art Exhibition. INSIGHT is an event that now exhibits over 900 students' artworks, and which the School community enthusiastically embraces.
- The support of the Principals that I have been fortunate to have worked with and the generosity of donors, has helped build up the Somerville House Art Collection to now over 160 artworks.
- The establishment of a specialist Art Program in Junior School. There wasn't a program like this when I first started at the Somerville House, so getting this program established, along with the great support of Dr Murray Evans and Mrs Arna Bennett was a big achievement.
- With the support of the Art staff, building a strong, well-respected Art Department that has been relevant and important to the students.

When did you start teaching, and what made you decide to become a teacher?

I started teaching in 1972, after being trained for only two years. All by chance as I had no ambition to teach, I simply fell into it and am so thankful for having had a working life that I have loved.

What will you miss most about teaching?

The girls – their humour, their creativity, their friendships

Would you like to share a little bit about your plans following your retirement from Somerville House?

The main reason for my retirement from teaching is to focus full-time on my painting. By coincidence, I have been invited to do a residency at the Margaret Olley Centre (Tweed Regional Gallery) in December to complete a number of paintings for a group exhibition there in March. Additionally, I am having a solo exhibition at the Michael Reid Gallery (Murrurundi) in September 2018, so next year is looking busy at this point.



MR STEPHEN WILLIAMS

Director of Co-Curricular Music

When did you begin working at Somerville House and what is your fondest memory of the School?

I began working at Somerville House in 1995, initially as the Director of Bands and teacher of Clarinet and Saxophone, before taking on the position of Director of Co-Curricular Music. My fondest memory of the School is the friendship and collaborations with staff members throughout the School fraternity along with the working relationship and achievements developed with many students over the years. It has been a great pleasure to see students perform and achieve excellence in the music education area. It has also been a joy to watch the Music Department grow in quantity and to improve in quality during my time here.

What were some of your most memorable achievements during your time at the Somerville House?

Some of the most memorable achievements include organising and overseeing:

- Successful Overseas Tours
- Collaborative Interstate Festivals

- Development of an integrated Music Co-Curricular Program – Bands, Choir, Strings and Keyboard along with the establishment of leadership for each entity
- High level student achievements incorporated in the normal School program
- Establishing an integrated database for student ensembles and database of our extensive instrument inventory
- Working to improve the efficiency of all areas of the music program
- Wonderful concert performances throughout the years.

When did you start teaching, and what made you decide to become a teacher?

I began teaching in 1980 and quickly established a great passion for Instrumental Music Education especially in the area of Woodwind and Bands. I also diversified my career into many other interests such as conducting, AMEB examining, event management and performance.

What will you miss most about teaching?

In terms of teaching at Somerville House, I will greatly miss the staff and students that I have worked with

over the years. I hope to maintain the many friendships I have made with staff, after I retire. Many students have gone on to achieve great things. I look forward to keeping in touch with their successes over the years to come.

Would you like to share a little bit about your plans following your retirement from Somerville House?

I will be continuing my position as Senior Woodwind Examiner and Consultant with the Australian Music Examinations Board as well as maintaining a private Clarinet and Saxophone teaching practice at home. I will also be developing some consulting work in the music performance area organising concerts and music events in a number of venues.

Anything else you would like to share:

I hope to spend much more time with my grandchildren, helping them in their own education and development. I will enjoy seeing them grow up and achieve their own unique paths in life. I will also spend much more time assisting my wife in all her endeavours. I would love to travel more – both interstate and overseas. Having the time and headspace to plan trips to beautiful places or wonderful concerts and cultural events sounds very appealing.

SOMERVILLE HOUSE CHAPEL UNVEILS NEW STAINED GLASS WINDOW

As part of the Somerville House Foundation Mothers' Chapel Service and Morning Tea on Wednesday 10 May, the Somerville House Chapel unveiled a new stained glass window, a project of the School's wonderful past mothers.

The artists of the stained glass window, Gerry Cummins and Jill Stehn, share the legend for the 'Mothers' window:

A blue sky with streaky clouds. Historic Cumbooquepa. Stained glass windows can last for a thousand years. Might the window outlast the building?

The Moreton Bay fig trees, which are so deeply associated with the School. The three massive trunks of the trees symbolise strength and endurance.

The three figures represent the generations of Somerville House women. The grandmother is benevolently looking at the student's work. The lower part of her face has a smile of satisfaction, while the upper part shows surprise at what her daughter has learnt. This represents increased learning from generation to generation, without which there is no progress. The student is looking confidently into the future.

The thick textbook symbolises the vast amount of knowledge students acquire. The book in which the student is writing has a few filled pages, while much of the book remains to be written. The student may not know it, but she is writing her Book of Life.

The native bush stone curlew is deliberately placed against European roses. This symbolises the blending of cultures that make us Australian. The curlew is carefully protecting her chicks. This area symbolises life's cycle. The three young chicks are positioned amongst the dead fig leaves.

The inscription is quoted from Proverbs 31:28. "Her children rise up and call her blessed."

The dedication implies the life-long support for Somerville House from former students.





THE WIZARD OF OZ Musical

*By Ms Annette Box, Head of Drama and Director,
Producer and Choreographer of the Musical*

The Somerville House and Churchie *Wizard of Oz* musical was a first-rate production, with packed audiences who were treated to three evenings of very special performances.

With over 100 students onstage, in the orchestra and working behind the scenes, over 20 staff involved in the direction, creation and production of the show, as well as one real dog, the combined schools' Musical for 2017, *The Wizard of Oz*, was an outstanding achievement in every sense.

The Wizard of Oz takes us from Kansas to the Emerald City, where Dorothy meets her three friends and journeys

through eight different settings, all requiring new artistic features, with the chorus featured across seven different contexts and roles, all with new costumes, songs and dance routines.

The cast commenced rehearsals in early Term 4 2016, working on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons to perfect their choreography, learn the melodies and block the scenes to bring the well-loved narrative to life.

At the beginning of the School year, the orchestra formed and commenced working on the incredible score that accompanied our performers. Set painters, props creators, costume

assistants and more worked busily away in the lead up, with the audio visual and backstage crew finessing the technical elements to bring the magic of the theatre to Harker Hall.

The Wizard of Oz was the most creatively demanding musical Somerville House has undertaken yet, and the reaction from the School community is that we conquered that challenge with flying 'rainbow' colours. Sincerest thanks must go to all staff, students and parents who contributed to the show in some way, be it onstage or by loaning a prop, and to all those who came to see the show.

PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL MERRETT, ADRENALIN PHOTOGRAPHICS





I like the Robinson Centre because we can move around easily and we can move almost everything if we need to. I also like the Centre because we can open the walls if there is not enough room.

YEAR 5 STUDENT



You get introduced to new ways to learn all the time and you get to try sitting on wobbly chairs, soft cushioned chairs, stools and normal fluoro green chairs. Also it has clear glass so you feel not so disconnected from the other classrooms.

YEAR 5 STUDENT



Learner-Centred PEDAGOGIES

A productive school culture, and the pastoral, educational, sporting and cultural programs that form a part of that, do not simply occur without the investment of time, energy and commitment.

We must create learning environments that are of the highest quality and in order to do that we must be in a process of continuous improvement and learning.

2017 saw the opening of a purpose-built learning centre for Year 5 and 6 students, called the Robinson Learning Centre. These learning spaces were designed to be adaptive to the learning needs of the students. Physically, the learning environment can be

configured in different ways, through the use of movable glass walls and break-out spaces, to facilitate different modes of learning. In terms of pedagogy, these new learning environments also saw Junior School staff engage in a process of change. They reflected upon their practice and developed programs and learning experiences that best represent effective teaching for learning practices, particularly when working in flexible learning spaces.

Environments that are learner-centred foster both the cognitive and metacognitive development of students, enhancing both learning and social and emotional outcomes for children.

Learning experiences are challenging, age-appropriate, and respect individual, group and gender differences. They also believe that engagement and confidence increases, and there are higher levels of motivation for students entering learner-centred classrooms.

Learner-centred environments are supportive environments established on a foundation of positive relationships and frequent, genuine interactions between students and teachers. In these environments, there is careful monitoring of progress and development, with regular opportunities for reflection, self-assessment and feedback. Both the academic and social needs of students are considered.

I like the Robinson Centre because I like the way all the tables are set up and the way we can go out into the hall and work on the whiteboards.

YEAR 6 STUDENT



I like the new learning centre because it is very spacious and we can learn in different areas.

YEAR 6 STUDENT



I really like how it has a lot of room and the new things we can experience with this space. I really like the new furniture. I think it is perfect for what we do in class and what we learn. Everything has its own place and it all fits. I really enjoy it here.

YEAR 5 STUDENT





OUR ALUMNI WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE
**QUEENSLAND
 SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Alumni students, Judy Wood (Class of 1975), Gail Aitken (Class of 1983) and Fiona Lale (Class of 1983) left Somerville House with music still in their hearts. This led them to join the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, where they were able to showcase their musical talents to the rest of the nation.

JUDY WOOD

Judy joined the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra as Principal Bassoon ten years after leaving Somerville House. She played in QPO before moving into the Queensland Symphony Orchestra as an Orchestra Librarian in 2007, a position she held before taking up the role of Community Manager in 2016.

Years at Somerville House?

My time at Somerville House was from 1970 to 1975.

Can you tell us more about your role with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra?

I started off playing Principal Bassoon

in the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra, before moving to the Queensland Symphony Orchestra after the two orchestras merged. I then spent nine years as Orchestra Librarian, and have been a Community Engagement Manager for a little over a year. My role now involves working with schools and community groups, planning and organising activities that take the orchestra musicians around the state.

What are your most memorable performances and/or achievement?

As a performer, I took part in some wonderful tours, including playing in beautiful concert halls in Japan. Playing major orchestral repertoire was always a highlight. Now I work with students and community musicians, and I love seeing the boost they get from hearing their instrument played really well and from engaging with professional musicians.

As an Old Girl of Somerville House, how do you think your education and School experience equipped you for your career in music?

I was lucky to work with great teachers like Adele Nisbet and Graeme Morton, who are still major figures in the Brisbane music scene. The atmosphere of Somerville House encouraged me to learn and try new things, even as I get older. I always remember being told as I left school that our educational journey had just begun.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

People of your generation will live for a very long time, make the most of it and have fun!

GAIL AITKEN

Gail Aitken started as a member of the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra before joining the Queensland Symphony Orchestra as the leader of the Second Violins. In her position as Section Principal Violin, Gail and her violin ensemble are responsible for playing a supportive role to the first violins, creating one harmonious melody together.

Years at Somerville House?

I was a student from 1979 to 1983 – Year 8 through to Year 12.

Can you tell us more about your role with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra?

My position is Section Principal Second Violin. There are generally between 11 and 14 people in my section and I am responsible for organising their seating, directing them as to what bowings and bowing styles are to be used and other violin related matters. I sometimes have solos to play, and attend meetings to represent and advocate for my section.

What are your fondest memories of learning music at Somerville House?

Choral Festival: as tough as it was at the start of each year, it was always amazing to see how competitive everyone was when it came to 'the night'. I think it was an incredible event, both from unifying a whole school through music to giving senior music students the opportunity to train a choir.

Combined concerts with Churchie: these were wonderful concerts playing wonderful music. The Music Department at Somerville House was a lot smaller when I was at the School and, aside from the choirs, we didn't have enough instrumentalists for a proper orchestra, so collaborating with Churchie filled this out (and gave us tenors and basses!)

Choir/Chorale: This was an area where we really flourished! With Graeme

Morton in charge of music during most of my years at Somerville, the choirs were sensational. We even made a record (yes, I'm that old!), which, listening back, is of the highest quality. We also had other opportunities to perform.... I remember one year we played for a fundraising fashion parade after which we 'scored' a lasagne and apple pie, which we secretively scoffed in one of the practises.

Why do you think it is important for students to learn music at School?

Learning a musical instrument has been proven to be of extreme value in many aspects of brain development as well as increasing coordination. As well as that, having a basic understanding of music, in any of its forms, is just useful! It is a language, like French or German, and learning one language makes learning others easier. There is also nothing quite like the community feeling of performing; being on stage in the 'middle of it', and knowing that everything you do matters, is extremely exciting. Through learning music, I was able to be part of various choirs and orchestras and I saw the world.... Australia and beyond!

What are your ambitions and where do you hope your career will take you next?

I feel extremely fulfilled and content with my life in music. I am involved in so many different areas; performance, teaching, tutoring (also for the Queensland Youth Orchestra), judging eisteddfods, arranging music, occasional composition, and instrument making/repairing, and plan to keep doing all of the above.

Anything else you would like to add?

Even though the Music Department at Somerville House was quite small when I was a student, I think it is a testament to the quality of teaching and training we received that, of a senior music class of about nine students, six of us ended up having successful careers in music; three in performance and three in education.

Thank you Somerville House!

FIONA LALE (PATRICK)

Fiona Lale started off playing the viola in the Queensland Symphony Orchestra for many years before joining the administration team as an Art Liaison.

Years at Somerville House?

I attended Somerville House from 1975 to 1983, Year 4 to Year 12 inclusive.

Can you tell us more about your role with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra?

I was a viola player with QSO for 23 years. My title now is Artist Liaison, where I look after all the conductors and soloists. I get them to and from concerts, on and off the stage, and all the other things that are involved with helping them do their role as best they can.

As an Old Girl of Somerville House, how do you think your education and School experience equipped you for your career in music?

I think it's thanks to the music program we had at Somerville House with Graeme Morton, who taught me from Year 4 to Year 11. He was a fabulous teacher. It was amazing, I was the only viola player in the School. We had a tiny orchestra, and now the School is thriving with so many musicians. It's lovely to see it has come so far.

Advice to aspiring musicians?

Practise hard, follow your dreams and grab every opportunity. Perform as much as you can, learn as much as you can from your teachers, don't ever say no, and open all the doors because we do have a wonderful education system here. Somerville House's music and instrumental programs is just phenomenal. I had a wonderful time while at Somerville House, my school days were great, and I still work with one of my Somerville House friends, Gail Aitken.



PREMIER'S ANZAC PRIZE

By Charlotte Solomon, Year 11



We were promised and delivered a, 'trip of a lifetime.' The Premier's Anzac Prize allowed eight students along with two chaperones, to travel overseas to follow the footsteps of the Anzacs who fought in the First World War, visiting battlefields where they fought, and their graves and memorials where they are commemorated. Our trip started in London and took us to Paris and the battlefields of France and Belgium, culminating in the Anzac Day commemoration at Villers-Bretonneux.

To be selected as a recipient of this prize, I created a multimodal video which answered the question: 'How is the Anzac tradition still relevant to modern Australia?' In producing my submission, I was able to link the admirable characteristics and actions that are witnessed daily in our community to those demonstrated by the Anzacs.

war, and listen to the stories that my grandparents shared, inspired me to learn about the lives of men who fought for our fledging country.

Tyne Cot Cemetery, Langemark German Military Cemetery and Pozieres Cemetery, that I really understood the full sacrifice made by the Anzacs when they fought for the safety of Australia.



I was inspired to enter the Premier's Anzac Prize because the Anzac tradition became important to me after researching relatives and placing a poppy at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in 2013. The extensive list of names not only raised questions about the men who were prepared to go to war and fight for our newly formed nation, but also highlighted the fact that their bravery and sacrifice helped shape our national identity. These men volunteered to risk their lives for their country and so many of them paid that ultimate price. Being able to research family members who fought in the

I soon realised that all the men who fought for Australia, regardless of their background or standing in Australian society, exhibited and embraced similar qualities including: bravery, selflessness, courage and mateship. The Premier's Anzac Prize allowed me to conduct in depth research of three Anzacs so I could honour their sacrifice by reading their eulogies at their final resting place, at memorials and grave sites overseas.

The Premier's Anzac Prize also allowed me to talk to younger students about the Anzac tradition and the importance it still bears in everyday life. The classes decorated commemorative crosses that I placed at the graves of the three chosen Anzac soldiers. The Premier's Anzac Prize has impacted upon my perspective of the First World War and it changed me because I have a better understanding about our country's history and the atrocities of war as well as the ultimate sacrifice it demands. The young lives it steals. The devastation to friends and family that it leaves behind. It was really worthwhile to walk in the footsteps of the Anzacs and try to fathom the pressure and harsh conditions that they were placed in. Lest we forget.

When I was selected I was overjoyed but it wasn't until I was on the plane, leaving Brisbane that I really understood the journey that we would embark on. We were warned that we may, at times, feel emotionally overwhelmed, but it wasn't until we set foot into some of the cemeteries such as: Villers-Bretonneux,





TIPPAH DWAN

JOINS THE QUEENSLAND FIREBIRDS

It was a dream come true for Year 12 student Tippah Dwan, after she was selected to train with the Lorna Jane Queensland Firebirds earlier this year. The talented goal attack player will have the opportunity to work with some of the world's best players as she travels around Australia with her new team.

Tippah Dwan's passion for netball started at the age of seven after watching her older sister play. Her journey continued while at Somerville House after she joined the Open team as a Year 10 student, where she trained hard on and off the court.

Joining the Open team gave her an opportunity to watch and mentor players from other years, helping them develop further as netball players. She enjoyed playing at Somerville House and found her coaches very supportive and encouraging.

"Playing for Somerville House has been such a fun experience, I love being able to play with my friends and girls from other schools. The School has had some great netball coaches who have helped me develop my game."

In 2016, Tippah's commitment to her sport turned more serious when she was chosen to play in the Queensland U17s. From there, doors began to open as other netball teams started to take notice of this rising sports star.

In January 2017, Tippah's dream came true when she was approached by the Queensland Firebirds after one of their training partners sustained a long-term injury. Receiving a personal phone call from the coach,

Tippah was then asked to become their next training partner.

Her first week training with the Firebirds saw her selected to attend a weekend of pre-season games, where she experienced playing with some of the best netballers from all over the world.

"It was amazing to put on the purple dress and actually get on court for a few quarters against the NSW Swifts and the GWS Giants."

Tippah has been described by former and current coaches as a talented goal creator and shooter who demonstrates calmness under pressure. When asked about her future as a netball player, Tippah responded;

"Experiencing the Firebirds' environment has made me more determined to become a professional netball player. I love the Firebirds' culture and professionalism. In the future I would love to be given the opportunity to play in the Suncorp Super Netball league."

It is my dream job, and I am going to take full advantage of the opportunities I have been given, to put in the hard work and hopefully one day be the best netballer that I can be."

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SOMERVILLE HOUSE

BAUER BUILDING

On Friday 26 May, Somerville House welcomed His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland, to officially open the Bauer Building.

These new facilities have enhanced our educational environment, creating a learning space that offers our students the ideal setting for achieving their best, combined with world-class boarding accommodation.

The construction of the Bauer Building is part of the School's Master Plan to redevelop the campus to meet the changing needs of education and provide the best facilities for our 21st century learners.

We are extremely proud of the outcome of this project, and thank our School community and those who have supported us.

In naming the new building, we honoured the Old Girls' Association in its 115th Anniversary Year and especially Mrs Isabel Bauer (Bloomer) Class of 1955 and President of the OGA from 1982 to 1999.



Arabian Nights Ball

By Mrs Kerri Phillips, Chair, P&F Ball Committee



The 2017 Somerville House P&F Arabian Nights Ball provided an opportunity for our community to come together to celebrate the fantastic spirit which is the essence of our School.



As the doors opened and guests moved into the Arabian Nights ballroom, they were greeted by a scene that any Lawrence of Arabia would feel at home in. Thousands of fairy lights filled the ceiling; a dramatic glittering minaret took centre stage and above the dance floor shimmered a huge chandelier that partially, but not quite, obscured a hammock of balloons hinting of the fun ahead.

was sold to the highest bidder, Kylie Sturgeon, and the proceeds will be donated to Youngcare.

More feel good moments for the traditional father/daughter dance, when a few tissues and many cameras appeared.

But all good things must come to an end and, as 2017 School Captain, Isabelle Coulson, presented MC, Kate Yaxley (2013 School Captain) with flowers to say thank you for a job very well done. The band came back on stage for the last time as guests filled the dance floor for the last song. As they danced, the room exploded in a riot of balloons, confetti and firework fountains.



A sea of black shrouded tables and chairs were adorned with gold sashes and alternating centrepieces of flickering candelabras or feather and palm leaf arrangements.

Congratulations and thank you to the Ball Committee, for another memorable Somerville House Ball.

The night opened with a colourful contemporary dance performance of 'Aladdin' by Theatre & Dance and was followed later in the night by a trio of fire twirlers from Fiesta Fire that had everyone sitting on the edge of their seats. Guests were barely at their tables as the band, Hot Sauce, rocked and rolled through three dance brackets.

Guests enjoyed a delicious three-course meal, the raffle and watching the lively competition at the silent auction table. 'Rocky Road', a brilliant still life by our own Head of Art, Mr John Honeywill,

SAVE THE DATE:

2018 Somerville House Fire and Ice Ball

SATURDAY 21 APRIL 2018

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre



SOLDIERS IN THE BRIDGWOOD STAFFROOM, DURING THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION FROM 1942-1944. THE PHOTO IS COURTESY OF BILL BENTSON.



QUEEN ALEXANDRA HOME AT COORPAROO



WWII BASE SECTION 3



MISS CRAIG

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Snippet from a 1987 Somerville House newsletter

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Early in 1942 during World War II, Somerville House was taken over by the Australian Government for use by the United States Army, East Asian Command.

The School had just over three weeks to gather together all its records, books, furniture,

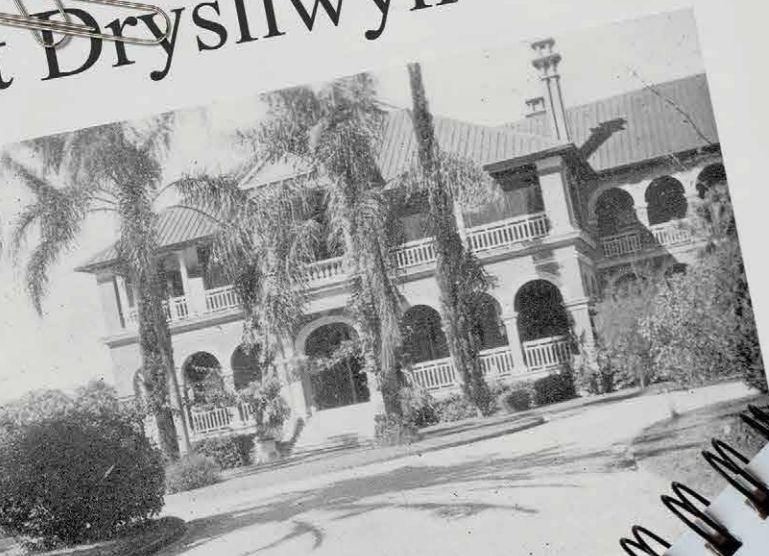
bedding for Boarders and the rest of the paraphernalia so necessary for a boarding school.

The School was reorganised into separate locations, two for day girls and the third for Boarders. Day girls were taught at Auchenflower or at

Coorparoo, while the Boarders found a home at Stanthorpe.

Miss Craig who was in charge of the School during those momentous years, became known as the itinerant principal as she travelled by bus and train between the three centres.

Dryslwyn 1943



DRYSLWYN AT AUCHENFLOWER 1943

MOIOMINDAH AT STANTHORPE





SOMERVILLE HOUSE
FOUNDATION
 SECURING OUR FUTURE SINCE 1984

ENHANCING THE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR GENERATIONS
 OF SOMERVILLE HOUSE STUDENTS



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

By Mrs Virginia Buttula,
 Somerville House Foundation Chair

In the past twelve months, the Somerville House Foundation has again hosted the much loved events, the Mothers' Chapel Service and Morning Tea, Audi Centre Brisbane Golf Day and the Fathers' Long Lunch, which is now in its second year. We also successfully launched a new event into our social calendar, the Ladies' Long Lunch held in July 2017. Somerville House parents, friends and the wider School community enjoyed the opportunity to network, enjoy incredible speakers and support a wonderful cause, raising funds for the Foundation Scholarship Fund.

Over \$100,000 was raised from our events, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, and guests' participation in our raffles, and silent and live auctions. In 2018, we look forward to continuing to hold these great events in conjunction with our members, the P&F and OGA, to celebrate and support our School community.

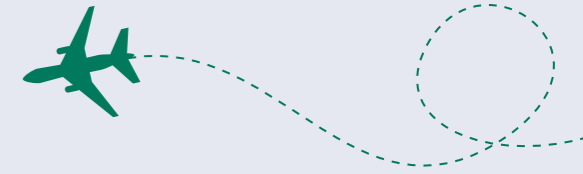
Funds raised in the 2017 Annual Giving Appeal have gone towards the development of an After Hours Study and Information Learning area in the refurbished Seymour Library.

This initiative will benefit not only our current students, but also our future generations of learners.

Moving into 2018, the P&F, OGA and Foundation will continue to work together in joint initiatives to create One Somerville, uniting our School community and creating the best opportunities for our students.

The Foundation Board looks forward to the coming year, supporting our School community and affirming our ethos of Educate Girls, Change the World. Thank you for your continued support.

BROADENING HORIZONS WITH OVERSEAS STUDY SCHOLARSHIP



This year, the Somerville House Foundation awarded the Overseas Study Scholarship to Sally Worland. This scholarship provides a current Year 12 student the opportunity to further their studies overseas after graduating from Somerville House. Sally is using this extraordinary opportunity to continue her Japanese studies in Japan.

What motivated you to apply for the Somerville House Foundation Overseas Study Scholarship?

It gave me an opportunity to travel and experience life in another country that I would not have been able to do without it. I wanted to do something different next year with my education and the Foundation Scholarship has given me the chance to do it and I am very excited.

Tell us a little bit about the scholarship course you have enrolled in and your preparations for studying in 2018?

The course I've chosen is an intensive language school in Sapporo, Japan where I will stay for six months. Before I leave for Sapporo I plan to study Japanese as well as I can to get the most out of my time in Japan, and also buy lots of warm clothes.

What benefit do you see in studying and living overseas once completing Year 12?

The key benefit is learning something new in a very exciting way, but also just doing something different. I want to gain more perspective and knowledge of the world, as well as becoming proficient in Japanese and this is what I believe the trip will give to me.

What are you most looking forward to from the experience?

Obviously, my priority is learning the language and experiencing the culture, but most of all, I am excited to meet new people from Japan and all around the world. This is the first time I will be living independently and will be part of such a diverse student group. I am very excited to see where I will be a year from now when I return.

What advice do you have for those considering applying for future Somerville House Foundation Overseas Study Scholarship?

As simple as it is, go for it. What encouraged me the most to take a gap year was the School and Foundation demonstrating their support of such an extended trip through the scholarship program – promoting it and encouraging students to just put their names down. It's a scary next step to take, as it is very different from what the majority of your friends will be doing, but it's an experience that you will have under your belt for the rest of your life. Personally, I can't wait!

What is your understanding of our Foundation and how it works?

Throughout my time at Somerville House I have seen the Foundation contribute through many fundraising events and donations to help the Somerville House community. This scholarship is in their tradition of providing learning opportunities for students and has motivated me and many previous students to take the next step in learning.



2017 ANNUAL GIVING APPEAL

Our thanks to all who have donated as part of the 2017 Annual Giving Appeal. By joining in the power of collective giving, a significant contribution can be made to the establishment of an after hours study area in the refurbished Seymour Library, due for completion in early 2018.

We wish to acknowledge the generosity of those listed below for their support of the 2017 Annual Giving Appeal. We also acknowledge and thank all those who wished their giving to remain anonymous.

Funds raised as at 30 November 2017 totalled \$37,893.

Mrs Gwenda Apel
Mrs Elizabeth Barnes
Mrs Isabel Bauer
Mr Peter Borg
Mrs Kathleen Braithwaite
Mrs Jennifer Briggs
Mr Ian and Mrs Patricia Brusasco
Dr Desley Buchan
Mrs Joyce Butterfield
Mr Nicholas Chancellor
Dr Chung-Yi Chu and Dr Chung Hang Kong
Mrs Barbara Conaghan
Mr Dean Demkin
Mr Ryan Dreibelbis
Mrs Mary Foster
Mrs Yu and Mr Feng Fu
Mr Alan and Mrs Wendy Grummitt
Mr Dominic Kelly
Ms Teresa Kwan and Mr Chris Law
Miss Sandy Lee
Dr Jennifer Lingard
Mrs Lorraine Logan
Mr Luke Maccheron
Mr Andrew Mattiske
Mrs Sue and Mr Tom McDonald
Mr Geoff Nette

Mrs Dianne and Mr David Russell
Mr Des and Mrs Faye
Mrs Barbara Sakzewski
Mrs June Smith
Dr C H Smith
Mr William Sole
Mrs Lesley Strang
Mrs Jill Tame
Mr Damien Taylor
Ms Bethwyn Todd
Miss Jan Whittaker
Mr Nan Yang

HOW CAN YOU HELP

Tax deductible donations can still be made to the 2017 Annual Giving Appeal. Visit www.somerville.qld.edu.au/foundation/annualgiving to contribute and assist in creating a space for learning, discovery and reflection.

AUDI RAFFLE

Congratulations to Somerville House Foundation raffle winner Mrs Nancy Atkinson, who in August 2017, drove away with a new Audi A3 Sportback, kindly donated by Audi Centre Brisbane.

Thank you to all those who generously purchased tickets in the 2017 Somerville House Foundation raffle. With your kind support, the Foundation successfully raised more than \$20,000.

These vital funds allow the Foundation to continue providing exceptional learning opportunities for generations of students. We wish the Atkinson family many happy years of driving in this wonderful new car and thank the Audi Centre Brisbane for their generous ongoing support of our Foundation.



A world is no world without learning

Miss Eliza Fewings, Somerville House Founding Principal



OUR FAMILY BUSINESS IS ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

“ The story of Hutchies has great appeal to all of us as a community and as individuals. There is something real, genuine and inspiring about it – 5 generations – across each one – authentic, purposeful leadership with a clear vision – a shared ethos firmly grounded in integrity, diligence and service. A culture where relationships are key, where people matter, where people take care of each other, pulling together – hugely critical in this rigorous competitive industry – construction. Where that Australian thing we call “a fair go” is solid, understood and agreed. ”

The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO 25TH GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA AT HUTCHIES' TOOWONG 105 YEAR PARTY

👤 1,500+ PEOPLE
📅 16YRS AVG. TENURE
🏗️ 250+ ANNUAL PROJECTS
💰 \$2.4B+ TURNOVER

HUTCHIES.COM.AU

1300 HUTCHIES

MOTHERS' MORNING TEA

The Somerville House Foundation Mothers' Chapel Service and Morning Tea was attended by 70 mothers, past and present and Old Girls who came together on Wednesday 10 May to celebrate the role that mothers play in our lives.

The event commenced with a reflective chapel service, conducted by Ms Chris O'Gorman, Senior Chaplain, and included the unveiling of a new Chapel stained glass window, celebrating Mothers, followed by an elegant morning tea.

This sold-out event provided an opportunity for guests to connect with and celebrate the women of Somerville House, whilst supporting the valuable work of the Somerville House Foundation.

We extend our sincere thanks to the sponsors of this event, including Little Black Dress Paddington, Starfire Jewellery, Libertine Parfumerie and Studio Pilates.



SOMERVILLE HOUSE FOUNDATION
AND AUDI CENTRE BRISBANE

GOLF DAY

One hundred and twenty players joined us on Monday 5 June, at the Brisbane Golf Club to participate in the 2017 Somerville House Foundation and Audi Centre Brisbane Golf Day.

The day dawned fine as we celebrated our eleventh year on the green with an excellent representation of the School's valued community, friends, colleagues and business partners. Our teams took to the course and were treated to an array of on-course activities and goodies from our major sponsors Audi Centre Brisbane, Ord Minnett, Hutchinson Builders, The Roastery Café and Murray Lott Golf.

The event would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors; including Hole and Prize Sponsors and we extend our sincerest thanks for their support. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the day. Through your generosity, valuable funds were raised in support of the work of our Somerville House Foundation. Please know that your contributions will have a positive impact on the educational outcomes of Somerville House students.

Congratulations to the Somerville House Foundation on a successful corporate golf day.



SOMERVILLE HOUSE FOUNDATION
AND AUDI CENTRE BRISBANE

LADIES' LONG LUNCH

On Friday 14 July, the Somerville House Foundation welcomed over 140 guests to the inaugural Ladies' Long Lunch. Mothers past and present, Old Girls, and friends of the Somerville House community came together to enjoy an afternoon of fine dining, inspiring speakers, networking and fundraising.

The ladies enjoyed informative and inspiring speeches from Leslie Chong, Chief Executive Officer of biopharmaceutical company Imugene, and Author and Columnist Rebecca Sparrow.

With the theme of 'Educate Girls, Change the World', all funds raised from the afternoon were contributed to the Somerville House Foundation Scholarship fund. Thanks to the generosity of guests, as well as others in our School community, over \$30,000 was raised. These funds will directly contribute to empowering outstanding young women of academic, sporting or artistic talent who otherwise could not attend Somerville House.

The event would not have been possible without the support of our Somerville House community and generous sponsors. We would like to take the opportunity to once again acknowledge and recognise their valuable contributions.

Special thanks to our Naming Rights Sponsors Audi Centre Brisbane and Gold Sponsors White Glove Concierge Services and Trinity Beach Palace.

Due to the popularity of the Ladies' Long Lunch and the positive feedback from attendees, this event has now cemented its annual position in the Somerville House Foundation's calendar.



SOMERVILLE HOUSE FOUNDATION AND AUDI CENTRE BRISBANE

FATHERS' LONG LUNCH



Thank you to all those who joined us on Friday 18 August, for the Somerville House Foundation and Audi Centre Brisbane Fathers' Long Lunch. We are thrilled that the luncheon raised significant proceeds in support of the Somerville House Foundation Fathers' Scholarship.

With uninterrupted views of the Brisbane River from the sophisticated Alchemy Restaurant and Bar – Brisbane, guests enjoyed hearing from our inspirational guest speakers, national Rugby League super coach Mr Wayne Bennett AM and CEO and Managing Director of Actinogen Medical Dr Bill Ketelbey. As our Master of Ceremonies, we were also pleased to welcome David 'Luttsy' Lutteral, host of the Nova 106.9 Breakfast Show.

Through the generosity of those who attended, as well as others in our School community, over \$27,000 was raised to contribute to the Somerville House Foundation Fathers' Scholarship. Significantly, these proceeds will be directly applied towards providing life-changing opportunities to young women who would not otherwise be able to attend at Somerville House.

The event would not have been possible without the support of our Somerville House community and generous sponsors. We would like to take the opportunity to once again acknowledge and recognise their valuable contributions. Special thanks to our Naming Rights Sponsor Audi Centre Brisbane and Gold Sponsor Queensland Sotheby's International Realty.



The location, the style, the feeling you get when you walk through the door - every aspect of your home should be a reflection of who you are, where you've been, and the life you aspire to live.

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In Touch

OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION FOUNDED 1901

CONNECTING THE SOMERVILLE HOUSE OLD GIRLS' COMMUNITY

SOMERVILLE HOUSE OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION 2018 COMMITTEE

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Ms Alison Kolb (Scobbie)

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ms Trudy Naylor

SECRETARY/MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR

Miss Gaye Pitman

TREASURER

Ms Lana Gishkariany

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Mrs Vanessa Saxby (Abbott)
Mrs Belinda Cooney (Smith)

HONORARY COMMITTEE MEMBER

Mrs Isabel Bauer (Bloomer)
Miss Valmai Pidgeon AM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs Janice Anderson (Boyling)
Dr Pretoria Bilinski (Irwin)
Miss Nadine Domalewski
Mrs Barbara Duhig (Willers)
Miss Melanie Edgar
Mrs Bev Follitt (Gardam)
Miss Sue Follitt
Ms Dana Hobbs (Buckenham)
Ms Dominique Layt
Mrs Rosalie Lewis (Barclay)
Mrs Kara Rodwell (Ferguson)
Miss Hannah Syme



OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

President Message, Ms Alison Kolb (Scobbie)

*'Behind every successful woman is a tribe of other successful women who have her back'!
 For me this represents 'Old Girls supporting Old Girls'.*

I am Alison Kolb (nee. Scobbie) and I am very honoured to be your President of the Old Girls' Association. From one Old Girl to another, I ask that you don't take for granted what you had at Somerville House and the community that you are still part of, it is a special place, the opportunities are amazing and the friends you make at school are your friends for life!

Something that Somerville House taught me is 'anything is possible, whatever you put your mind to you can achieve'. I started rowing in Year 8 and to be truthful, I wasn't really keen on the idea but my mum encouraged me – and today I thank her. 17 years later and I am still rowing, I have competed for my state and for my country and have coached school girls. In October I had the opportunity to compete as a Master Rower in one of the world's biggest regattas, Head of the Charles in Boston. My cox was my first ever cox in Year 8 at Somerville House, Jennifer (aka 'Shorty'). I feel so privileged and honoured to be a part of the Somerville House OGA community which continues to bring so much to my life.

In September we had the opportunity to celebrate Commemoration Day. We were delighted and humbled to have Ms Jillian Kingsford Smith as our guest speaker. Jillian was a Boarder and in her words 'a solid middle of the road student' who graduated from Somerville House in 1987. Jillian's dedication to study and never settling for less than what she deserved, is evident through

her success in life. Like many of us, we like to live life in the fast lane, as did Jillian with her demanding career and living in the US and Asia, until she was diagnosed in 2012 with MS at the young age of 42. This called for significant lifestyle changes to accommodate her symptoms, but nothing seems to have phased her. Jillian's dedication and positive nature has allowed her to continue to author books, as well as support other like-minded people. Over the past few years, Jillian has written three books and currently on her fourth. Her first book 'Taking Control' became a best-seller within a few weeks and at the same time helped those newly diagnosed with MS. Jillian was an inspirational speaker for the Somerville House girls who had the opportunity to listen to her. Jillian talked about life not always turning out the way you imagine, but there are always more opportunities around the corner and that staying positive and determined is key. I would like to thank Jillian for coming back to Somerville House and sharing her story. She is an extraordinary woman.

Also this year, we presented a gift, as we traditionally do on Commemoration Day, a commemorative plaque to recognise and honour all students who have served our country in World War I, World War II and subsequent conflicts. It is so important to understand our heritage and to recognise how far we have come today. We have not forgotten what the Somerville House community has done and what they have been through, so that we can be

the School we are today. We would also like to recognise the Old Girls who continue to serve and protect our country in the defence forces, in the reserve forces and in peace keeping units, you do us proud. The plaque has been situated on the base of the School's flagpole, an appropriate site as it is a reminder of the far reaching effect of war. This simple plaque not only commemorates those who served our country but also reminds us of the precious value of peace.

As the current Year 12s walk out of the gates of Somerville House for the last time as school girls, they walk into the gate of the Old Girls' Association as the newest Old Girls. We had the opportunity on Monday 13 November 2017 to celebrate this milestone at the Mother and Daughter Dinner. The night was a huge success, with 294 girls, mothers and grandmothers celebrating the amazing achievement of the girls finishing Year 12. The OGA hopes that we bring a support network to our newest Old Girls over the years to come, a support network for them to lean on, whether professionally or personally. We aim to bring to them a community of Old Girls that are willing to listen, help and guide them through any path in life. The door is always open, any year, any time.

I look forward to meeting you at the next OGA event.

Kind regards,

Ms Alison Kolb (Scobbie)



COMMEMORATION DAY 2017

The School community celebrated the Commemoration Day Service on Friday 6 October, with an inspirational speech by guest speaker, Ms Jillian Kingsford-Smith (Alumna 1987).

Ms Kingsford-Smith is an award-winning journalist, founder and Chair of the Tenerife Festival, National Ambassador for Kiss Goodbye to MS, and two-time best-selling author, whose work has been recognised all over the world. Also featured in

the service was a superb musical performance by Year 12 gifted violinist Cherin Lee (120).

The School extended their gratitude to the OGA for their annual gift, this year a commemorative plaque for the

memorial flagpole located at the top of the main driveway, to acknowledge all past Somerville House students who served in World Wars I and II. The plaque was presented to the School earlier in the year in time for the ANZAC Day Service in April 2017.



DENAI REX, ELIZABETH MURDOCH AND SOPHIE O'BRIEN, ALL CLASS OF 2012, ON THE BANK OAT LAKE WYARALONG AT THE SOMERVILLE HOUSE REGATTA



MR OLEG SHISHKIN, DIRECTOR OF ROWING AND DR NESS GOODWIN, PRINCIPAL



MR OLEG SHISHKIN, DIRECTOR OF ROWING AND ROWERS



THE OLD FROGS ROWING NETWORK

2017 MOTHER AND DAUGHTER DINNER

By Helen Preston, Head of Year 12

The annual Old Girls' Association (OGA) Mother and Daughter Dinner, held on Monday 13 November, saw the graduating cohort of 2017 Seniors, accompanied by significant female relatives and staff, celebrate an evening of fine dining and laughter at The Landing, Dockside.

The MC for the evening was Ms Alison Kolb, President of the OGA who spoke to the Seniors of the importance of creating networks and being a part of the OGA. It was, hopefully, the first of many gatherings for the newest members of the OGA.

Guests raised over \$2000 (a record amount!) in support of the Leukaemia Foundation through various raffles, generously donated by members of the community. It was a fitting end to the Seniors' association with the Leukaemia Foundation, having supported this charity since Year 10.

The Old Frogs Rowing Network was created last year to reconnect past rowers, coaches and families with the current rowing community. This year, the Old Frogs were able to attend the Blessing of the Fleet, the Somerville House/All Hallows' School Regatta and the Head of the River.

The past ten years alone have seen Somerville House rise to a leading position in the Aggregate Cup and sustain this for six consecutive years. The leadership of Mr Oleg Shishkin has undoubtedly been successful, yet is most powerful not on the scoreboard but in the heart of members of the rowing community. Mr Shishkin is compassionate and inspiring.

His knowledge of the sport is astounding. Those of us who have had the privilege of being a part of his program are truly blessed. Mr Shishkin, thank you for your contribution to Somerville Rowing and to each of our lives. Welcome to your new life as an Old Frog!

If you would like to be added to the Old Frogs Rowing Network to receive invitations to the Blessing of the Fleet and Somerville House Regatta each season, please contact Laura Healy (Class of 2011) via email: laurahealy@live.com.

Annette Ringuet (Clarkson)
Class of 1997, coach 1998 to 2008, 2010 and 2014.

As one of many Old Frogs to have coached at Somerville House it was nothing short of an honour and privilege to have done so during Oleg's time as Director. His vision, passion and pursuit of ones best in life, as on the water is both inspiring and revered. Words are hard to come by in conveying our most deepest gratitude. May our watches always be in sync.

Спасибо. Так что всего Вам хорошего, мой дорогой друг.

2018 REUNIONS AND OGA EVENTS

Class of 2013, 5 Year Reunion
FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2018

Foundation Building, Somerville House
6.00pm to 8.00pm

Success in Stiletto
THURSDAY 1 MARCH 2018

Jade Buddha, Eagle Street Pier
6.00pm to 8.00pm

Old Girls who are Current Parents Function

FRIDAY 16 MARCH 2018

The Chambers, Somerville House
6.30pm to 8.30pm

The Old Frogs Rowing Network Blessing of the Fleet

SATURDAY 26 MAY 2018

Somerville House Water Sports Facility

The Old Frogs Rowing Network Somerville House/All Hallows' School Rowing Regatta

SATURDAY 18 AUGUST 2018

Wyaralong Dam

The Old Frogs Rowing Network Head of the River

SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2018

Wyaralong Dam

Success in Stiletto

THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

TBA
6.00pm to 8.00pm

Commemoration Day

FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER 2018

VPAC/Dining Room, Somerville House
10.45am to 2.00pm

New Old Girls Night – Class of 2017

FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER 2018

The Ship Inn
6.00pm to 8.00pm

Mother/Daughter Dinner

MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2018

TBA
6.15pm for 7.30pm dinner



CLASS OF 1957, 60 YEAR REUNION



CLASS OF 1962, 55 YEAR REUNION



CLASS OF 1977, 40 YEAR REUNION



CLASS OF 1967, 50 YEAR REUNION

2017 REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1957 60 YEAR REUNION

On Wednesday 25 October 2017 an excited crowd of 28 Somerville House Old Girls met to celebrate our 60 year reunion.

Flowering jacarandas spread purple carpets along the streets as we approached the St Lucia Golf Club where a function room was being beautifully decorated by Margaret Lockyer (Bowden) with wonderful table centrepieces; a profusion of pink roses, white azaleas, pink geraldton wax and fresh greenery while a huge bunch of red lilies filled a side table.

It was a perfect spring day as we met on a balcony overlooking the rolling green lawns for cold drinks and savouries and the meeting of many long lost classmates. I think we all still recognised each other!

Somerville House had been very helpful with the production and postage of our invitations and sent us a friendly photographer who professionally organised us all for many souvenir photographs to be purchased at the end of the day.

After moving into the function room, Jennifer Watermeyer (Sharpe) welcomed everyone, especially those who had come from afar, including Canada, New Zealand and interstate, Western and North Queensland and the Gold Coast.

Elaine Katte-Primrose (Katte) read the apologies and a list of those no longer with us and donated the Lucky Door Prize, a beautiful book about her own Art Collection.

To our delight Beth Honeycombe (Ford) then sang a series of very witty songs.

We had asked everyone to recount some tales of their School days and Annette Brandle (Arundel) did a mighty job coaxing the reticent ones up to the microphone.

Everyone seemed to relish their lunch and we all talked and talked and talked. Four and a half hours later it was all over ----- until we meet again.

By Dr Rhyl Hinwood AM (Jones)

CLASS OF 1962 55 YEAR REUNION

Such was the goodwill at our 55 year reunion we decided that five years was too long to wait to catch up again. Judy Bolton (Hatcher) and Beth Butler (Carson) have undertaken to organise something for next year.

It was wonderful to see Dianne Mollard (Barrett), Cheri Templeton and Dianne Rigano (Horn) who were attending their first reunion since leaving school.

By Jill Swanwick (Russell)



CLASS OF 1962, 55 YEAR REUNION

CLASS OF 1967 50 YEAR REUNION

We climbed nervously up the path to Cumbooquepa, wondering if our former classmates would recognise us after so many years. On reaching the top we were somewhat relieved to be given name tags by our School Captain, Juliette Job (McCarthy). Armed with these, we bravely entered the vestibule of the beautiful old house. Once inside, we found a sea of friendly faces and immediately became the chattering schoolgirls of old times.

Among the crowd – some 48 of us from as far afield as country Queensland and Melbourne – we were thrilled to see our former history and Latin teacher, Pamela Davenport, who, as generously as ever, had come to greet us. She joined us as we lined up on the steps of Cumbooquepa to have our photo taken. From that familiar spot we looked out at what seemed like a foreign landscape, changed radically since our schooldays.

We soon discovered that the School too had changed, with the buildings we knew overshadowed by others and some no more. We were impressed to see that the handsome former neighbour, the South Brisbane Municipal Chambers, is now part of the School. While marvelling at the facilities enjoyed by our successors, we wondered how they manage to find their way around this vast complex; without our tour guide we would have been lost.

Following our tour we walked over the road for a leisurely lunch at The Ship Inn. Ironically, in our schooldays this was a rowdy place that we would not have dared to enter—except, it's said, for some adventurous Boarders.

We thank Juliette, our reunion organiser, for all her efforts to make the day a success and we look forward to more of the same for our 60th.

By Judith McKay

CLASS OF 1977 40 YEAR REUNION

On a balmy winter afternoon in late July, over 50 graduates of the Class of '77 donned the green and gathered outside Cumbooquepa for our 40th reunion. No doubt we all shared the thought... will I recognise anyone? Well, there were those who were so unchanged from school days they just looked out of uniform, others needed only to laugh or speak to be immediately identified while it took all of a couple of minutes to recognise the rest. After those initial moments, it was non-stop talking for the next four or so hours.

We barely drew breath to pose for the class photo before chatting our way through a tour of the School. "Herding cats" may well have been the phrase that came to mind for Catharine Whittred and Lauren Mengotti as they patiently guided us around the campus.

All the new buildings and restorations were admired but more of our attention was drawn to the corners and features that evoked specific memories – the most unexpected of which was the area under the old boarding house (Cumbooquepa) where the soap was made.

Following the tour, we spent a wonderful afternoon in the Foundation Building (built on our old netball courts) looking at old photos and memorabilia, and testing our memories with a trivia quiz ably adjudicated by Anne Z. Sandy B had everyone in stitches modelling the old School uniform (not the current uniform introduced in 1973 but the one we wore before that!)

Without doubt, however, the true joy of the afternoon was hearing of the admirable achievements and happiness of friends, and being humbled by the dignity with which some have faced trials and sadness. Teachers and School events were remembered with affection and humour.

It was wonderful to see so many at the reunion but those who could not make it were sorely missed. Everyone from '77 whether you made the reunion or not, please keep in touch through our Facebook page or the School.

Our special thanks go to Clare B and the organising group who arranged the reunion, the displays, welcomed us and compiled the wonderful trivia quiz; and to Catharine Whittred and her team for facilitating the event.



CLASS OF 1987, 30 YEAR REUNION



NEW OLD GIRLS NIGHT, CLASS OF 2016



CLASS OF 2007, 10 YEAR REUNION



CLASS OF 2007, 10 YEAR REUNION



NEW OLD GIRLS NIGHT, CLASS OF 2016



NEW OLD GIRLS NIGHT, CLASS OF 2016



NEW OLD GIRLS NIGHT, CLASS OF 2016



NEW OLD GIRLS NIGHT, CLASS OF 2016

SQUADRON LEADER KAY HAMILTON ELLIS CSC

nee Park (deceased)
– Class of 1970



Kay's story provides an example to current students that a career decision made at school is not necessarily for life.

Upon leaving school in 1970, Kay trained to become a teacher like so many females of that era. She taught English, French and Maths in regional Queensland. However after a trip overseas, she joined the Airforce Reserve as a part-time operations officer while still teaching high school maths. She loved the experience working with aircraft and decided to change careers. In the 1980s, females could not be pilots in the RAAF (her first choice), so she applied to be an air traffic controller. After topping her course in 1984, she worked at RAAF Base Townsville where she met and married Flight Lieutenant Tim Ellis, an airforce pilot.

In 1991, Kay was an air traffic controller on duty in the RAAF Richmond tower, NSW, when her husband Tim's RAAF Boeing 707 crashed into the sea off Sale, Victoria during a training exercise out of Richmond. He was one of five aircrew killed instantly.

Her subsequent efforts resulted in a Coronial Inquest into the accident and contributed to changes to the conduct of aircraft accident investigations within the air force. She also participated in the Senate Inquiry which led to the overhaul of the accident investigation process in the military. She gained a Graduate Certificate in Aviation, majoring in human factors in accidents, adding to her Bachelor of Aviation.

She also served in the Air Force Reserve Staff Group as next-of-kin officer, a part-time position she held until her death. In this capacity, she wrote the *Australian Defence Force Commanders Guide: Looking after Families following a Service Death* which provides helpful and realistic advice on bereavement care still used throughout the services. Kay was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross in 2007 in recognition of her work in this area.

Unfortunately, Kay was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002 and had exactly five disease free years before a secondary bone tumour in her arm was discovered. Inflammatory breast cancer then an amputation followed, but further chemotherapy allowed her to continue leading a busy life until her death in January 2011. Kay was also a musician and visual artist and held formal qualifications in photography and fine arts. During this time, she staged a number of photography exhibitions and played saxophone and sang in a jazz quintet. Kay also played active roles in Dragons Abreast Bribie Island Club, National Breast Cancer Foundation fund raising, and Breast Cancer Network Australia community liaison.

Although her life was tempered with much adversity, she lived it with tenacity and dignity.

CLASS OF 1987 30 YEAR REUNION

The 1987 Old Girls celebrated their 30 year reunion at Swayze's Backstage, Darling & Co, Paddington on 6 October 2017.

61 wonderful women smiling, laughing, chatting, dancing and squealing excitedly upon seeing old friends, some for the first time in more than 30 years.

Everyone who attended Somerville House with the 1987 cohort at any time from Prep to Year 12 was sought out, invited and welcomed. About 15 girls were attending their first reunion and many travelled a long way – UK, Japan, Adelaide, Sydney, Coffs Harbour and Central Queensland, just to name a few.

It was a fantastic, fun night and it has been lovely to see all of the reconnections and new friendships as a result.

Until next time,

Murph xx

CLASS OF 2007 10 YEAR REUNION

The Class of 2007 held their 10 year reunion at Dalgety House in Teneriffe which was well attended with 70 guests renewing school friendships and sharing their news.

NEW OLD GIRLS NIGHT CLASS OF 2016

Valuing friendships and shared memories.

Keeping in touch with your peers or at least knowing what they are doing, seems so much easier these days with social media at your fingertips. So would the opportunity to gather for drinks on a Friday night appeal to the newest Old Girls? Most definitely! The digital world can never replace the feel of catching up in person and sharing stories face to face. With a backdrop of spectacular bougainvillea, warm smiles, genuine hugs, and excited conversation energised the deck of The Ship Inn. Back together again; these outstanding young women shared experiences of their travels, studies and achievements.

I was incredibly proud and delighted to see the transition from students to sophisticated young women, moving forward in their life journey with wisdom and vision, determined to fulfil set goals and contribute to a global society. Life takes us in different directions but shared memories forever unite us. This special bond inspires you to take an interest in what your former classmates are doing, and I encourage you to keep in contact. The ability to follow one another online is incredible but always remember the value of a personal conversation so find the time to meet. Giving your time is the most precious gift you can give; you may never know how much this could change someone's day.

Mrs Ann Olsen

INTERESTED IN ORGANISING A REUNION?

If you are interested in organising a reunion for your year group and would like more information, please contact Catharine Whittred, Alumni Manager, on 07 3248 9293 or cwhittred@somerville.qld.edu.au



SCHOOL FRIENDS *Friends for life*

By Leigh Park (Class of 1968)

BACK ROW:
BARBARA RICHARD (NEE ROE),
LEIGH PARK,
JENNIFER DOUGLAS (NEE MCDOWEL)

FRONT ROW:
SHERRYL SEARLES,
DEBORAH PARTRIDGE

Private schools make much of the school community and the promise of friends for life... an "old girls network". Empty rhetoric? Not in the case of Somerville House. My sister's story is testimony to the strength of the bond of the Somerville House community. My sister Kay Ellis (nee Park), an Old Girl of Somerville House, died from secondary breast cancer in 2011. Her final years epitomises the community spirit engendered by her old school.

In the final couple of years of Kay's life, there were old school friends who provided company and comfort to Kay... being there at the end of the telephone for a medical "second opinion"; beautiful gifts to brighten a rather cheerless day – high fashion sleepwear to look swanky in hospital, beauty products for pampering; cheery visitors to brighten a dull day.

Then in the final hours and in death, the Somerville House Class of 1970 was still there.

Dr Barbara Richard (nee Roe) was one of the small group of people who helped nurse Kay in her sister's house in her few final days. Jenny Douglas (nee McDowell) made soups and salads for Kay and her visitors during this time. Kay was able to die peacefully amongst friends not strangers – a wonderful gift.

Sherryl Searles, a senior social worker at a major public hospital, is also a marriage and funeral celebrant. She was the funeral celebrant at both the private cremation for the family and at the scattering of ashes into the ocean wake at Kay's beachside home.

Her sincere words were spoken by someone who knew Kay well and thus meant so much more to the audience.

Deborah Partridge designed and produced the service sheets for both ceremonies and made a beautiful memory wall of photos of Kay. Unasked, she organised a group of Somerville House Class of 1970 girls to bring salads for the Wake.

And now six years later, these same friends continue to provide wonderful support and friendship to me. We lunch regularly and hold a special birthday luncheon each year. It provides a continuing link to my dear sister, a chance for shared memories of her life and a continuing reminder that she is loved and not forgotten.

Never was there such a strong testimony to the bond of the Somerville House community or a better example of the claim that friends made at Somerville House are friends for life.

NEWS FROM HOME AND ABROAD

JASMINE McCULLOUGH 2016

The exhibition of The Creative Generation Excellence Awards in Visual Art was officially opened on Saturday 8 April 2017 at the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA). This exhibition shows the 33 award-winning artworks from across the State, created by Year 12 students in 2016. Included in the exhibition is *Lachrymal*, the series of large ink on watercolour paper works by Jasmine.

HARRIET HUDSON 2015

Harriet was selected to row in the Australian under 23 quad at the World Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria from 19 July until 23 July 2017. She joined a very experienced quad as their bow woman. The quad competed very successfully in the World Cup 2 and World Cup 3 events as an Open quad however, their bow woman was deemed too old for the under 23 competition, and so she was replaced by Harriet for the World Championships. The girls rowed a very tough race against very strong quads from both Great Britain and Germany. In a race to the finish, they were beaten by Team Great Britain, but won a silver medal, narrowly beating Team Germany by 0.66 seconds.

SUSAN McNEIL 1998

Susan, who is a Barrister-at-Law, was named as a finalist for the Women Lawyers Association Of Queensland *Woman Lawyer of the Year Award* at the 39th WLAQ Annual Awards Dinner. Each year the Awards Dinner provides an opportunity for WLAQ to recognise, encourage and support the endeavors and contributions of women lawyers in Queensland.

VIDYA MAKAN 2011

Congratulations to Vidya on her lead role in the new Australian film, *The Colour of Darkness*. The movie, about the depth and mystery of India's complex and riotous cultural heritage, is brought to light in a single action which impacts on both Australia and India.

KATE CINCOTTA 2012 AND KEILIN ANDERSON 2012

Kate and Keilin competed in the University of Queensland team as one of the top two teams from Australia in the final rounds of the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition held in Washington DC recently. Over 600 teams from 95 countries competed, with the UQ team being awarded First Place for the Best Overall Memorial and Best Overall Respondent Memorial performances.

LOUISE KELLY (SPENCER) 1982 AND INGRID LARKIN 1986

Louise and Ingrid were awarded the QUT Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence. Their team received the Academic Team Award for their project, AMPhilanthropy.

GILLIAN TUCKER 1997

Gill is a member of a Melbourne band called Beaches, which formed in 2007. She is on bass and vocals. The band have just released their second Album, *Second of Spring* and kicked off their tour in Brisbane in late October. Beaches have toured extensively around Australia and the US.

JOANNE DANIELS 1990

Joanne Daniels is a Solicitor and the Managing Partner of Baker McKenzie's Yangon office in Myanmar. She transitioned to this role from the Brisbane office. She is currently living in Yangon, Myanmar. Joanne is the first woman appointed as an Area Manager within the company. She manages the area from Johannesburg, South Africa to Japan.

2017 MARRIAGES

Merrin Mahon (2007)
to Andrew Pratt

Christie Nicolaides (2005)
to Stephen Sourris

2017 BIRTHS Girls

Charlotte "Charlie" Lees (2002)
and John Russell – June Verity

Stay connected with the Alumni and Old Girls' Association on the Somerville House website.

Follow this link www.somerville.qld.edu.au/alumni-old-girls-association and you can register or update your details under 'Stay Connected'.

MARJORIE SHACKLETON

Of the thousands of girls who have attended Somerville House over its many years of existence, few have contributed as much to the School as Marjorie Mary Shackleton who passed away on 25 July 2017.

Having entered the School in 1950, Marjorie passed her Senior Examination in 1960 and moved on to gain an Arts degree from the University of Queensland. It was here that she met and later married Dr Jeffrey Searle. Their daughter, Rosalind, became a second generation student at Somerville House between 1984 and 1996. For a number of years Marjorie worked for the ABC as a research assistant for the current affairs programme, *This Day Tonight*, subsequently being employed by the University of Queensland in their Tertiary Education Institute.

The research skills that Marjorie had gained in this earlier employment were then put to good use in the service of Somerville House. From 1992 to early 2000 she worked as a voluntary assistant in the Development Office, often well beyond normal hours. Following her passion for reconnecting Old Girls with the School, she toiled tirelessly to trace those with whom the School had lost touch, building up a comprehensive base of alumni.

The same passion saw her involved in helping to organise many reunions and in the massive task of arranging the School Centenary Weekend in October 1999.

Even after leaving the Development Office, Marjorie continued to research material for the School Archives. Her knowledge of the history of the School was almost unequalled and she willingly put it to use in writing numerous articles for the School Magazine and *Connections*, relishing the challenge of organising a wide range of information into a coherent whole. She also willingly participated in the School Oral History Project and in assisting Modern History students with their School-related research. Marjorie's grammatical perfectionism and expertise in proof-reading were also put to good use in ensuring the accuracy of many School publications.

Not only generous in giving of her time and talent, she was also generous in her financial support of the School.

A member of the Somerville House Foundation since its inception, she also endowed a long-standing prize when its original donors were no longer able to do so. When the School's *Somerville Gold* rose plants, specially bred for the Centenary, did not survive, rose lovers Marjorie and Jeffrey provided cuttings from their own *Somerville Gold* bushes for a nursery to create replacements for the School gardens, taking responsibility for their care and nurture.

Marjorie's knowledge and interests covered a wide range of subjects. Articulate and forthright, she delighted in informed discussion, always being willing to modify her views in the light of evidence presented.

With the passing of Marjorie Mary Shackleton, Somerville House has lost a devoted and loyal former student and parent, an indefatigable and zealous worker for her *alma mater*.



2017 BEREAVEMENTS

Trudy Naylor 1991, her mother-in-law
Helen Elliott (Midson) 1958, her son
Anne Volling (Freudenberg) 1980 and Lisa McNamee (Freudenberg) 1983, their mother

Margaret Remington (Alexander) 1955 and Janette Lamont (Alexander) 1957, their sister

Jane Remington Doyle (Remington) 1979 and Anne de Hayr (Remington) 1983, their aunt

Gail Lippiatt 1969 and Jennifer Lippiatt 1971, their mother

Ellen Lippiatt 2000 and Clara Lippiatt 2003, their aunt

Nanette Johnston (Lavis) 1949, her husband

Jennifer Johnston 1982, her father

Fiona McAlister 1977, her mother

Rosalind Searle 1996, her mother
Helen Barnard (McMurtrie) 1985, her husband

Catherine Barnard 2015, her father
Susan Threlfo 1976, her father

Jan Hoechtl (Mills) 1959 and Christine Meagher (Mills) 1961, their father

Judith Brennan (Wilson) 1965, Susan Wilson 1970 and Anne Wilson 1973, their aunt

Betty Cribb (McLean) 1959 and Patricia Munro (McLean) 1960, their sister

Margaret Martin (Davison) 1944 and Dorothy Strom (Davison) 1047, their sister

Kym Dickinson 1972, her mother

Frances Quinn (Duthie) 1968, Dianne Pascoe (Duthie) 1969 and Christine Anderson (Duthie) 1973, their aunt
Margaret Martin (Davison) 1944, her husband

Ann Grace Martin 2011, her grandfather
Shirley Campbell (Warren) 1946 and Nerida Warren 1951, their sister

Clare Bailey 1977, her mother

Susan Urquhart 1972, Elizabeth Urquhart 1974 and Katherine Noble (Urquhart) 1977, their mother

Jacqueline Noble 2007 and Claire Noble 2010, their grandmother

Margaret Rackemann (Gunn) 1981, her mother

Elizabeth Rackemann 2013, her grandmother

Jennifer Fuller (Smith) 1973, her mother

2017 DEATHS

Patricia Hoffman (Brazier) 1945-1948
Norma Jean (Jean) Dreghorn (Park) 1938-1941

Susan Pegg (Coward) 1955-1958

Rosamond Freudenberg (Wilson) 1951-1952 (1954)

Carolyn Grant (Alexander) 1961-1963 (1965)

Isabelle Davies (Taylor) 1941 (1947)

Ruth Lippiatt (Trigge) 1940-1943

Judith Allen (Junner) 1952-1954 (1955)

Jocelyn Truman (Clark) 1945-1948

Joan McAlister (Nisssen) 1940-1941 (1943)

Dierdre Forwman (Whitworth) 1949-1952 (1953)

Judith Allen (Junner) 1952-1954 (1955)

Patricia Charlton (Rigden) 1938-1949

Beverley Touzeau (Batley) 1952-1962

Jean Mitchell (Dobbie) 1940-1941 (1943)

Betty Kelly (Schaefer) 1943-1944 (1946)

Janice Dowell (Fisher) 1959-1961 (1962)

Marjorie Shackleton 1950-1960

Joyce Earle (Wilson) 1937-1939 (1940)

Jill Pozzi (Cary) 1948-1951

Helen Armstrong (McLean) 1952-1961 (1963)

Olga Malisheff 1962-1966 (1967)

Jacqueline Dickinson (Duthie) 1938-1949 (1950)

Molly Anderson (Langley) 1937-1939 (1941)

Barbara Bailey (Warren) 1946-1947

Joan Urquhart (Axon) 1941-1944

Valerie Dodd (Miles) 1949-1950 (1952)

The thoughts and prayers of the Somerville House community are with you and your families in this difficult time.



— “ —

*Somerville House teaches confidence,
equality and pursuing your dreams above all.
This is the most important aspect of a
Somerville House education: being in a
positive environment that makes you believe
'I can do that too'.*

— ” —

ABIGAIL LEES
CLASS OF 2004

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